Further the Consulate at Tashkent (in Uzbekistan) was upgraded to the status of an Embassy on 13-3-92.

During this period the Embassy in Mogadiscio was temporarily closed on January 8, 1991; Consulate in Basrah on January 15, 1991, the Embassy in Afghanistan on February 6, 1993 and the Embassy in Colombia was closed down on March 1, 1993. The missions in Malawi and Zaire are also slated for closure.

New missions have been opened/upgraded in the context of rapidly evolving post Cold-war International scenario with a view to strengthen political, economic, commercial and other ties with these countries. Regarding the missions which were closed, while the Embassy in Somalia and Afghanistan and the Consulate in Basrah were closed temporarily following internal disturbances in the countries, the other 3 missions are being closed down as a part of economy measures undertaken by the Ministry after taking into account all relevant factors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

PROPOSAL	*ACTION TAKEN*
1. Government of Malta has approached for opening of a Consulate in Madras.	Under active consideration.
2. Republic of Armenia has approached for opening of a resident Mission in Delhi	Under active consideration.
3. Government of Vietnam has approached for opening of a Consulate in Bombay.	Under active consideration.
4. Government of Uzbekistan has approached for opening of a resident diplomatic Mission in Delhi.	Under active consideration. However they have already opened a small office for attending to consular work.
5. Government of Namibia has approched for opening of a Resident Mission in New Delhi.	Government of India's Agreement has since been conveyed.
6. Government of USA has approached for opening a Foreign Commercial office in Bangalore.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
7. Government of Portugal has approached for opening of a Consulate in Goa.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
8. Government of France has approached for appointment of an Honorary Consul in Madras.	Government of India's approval has since been conveyed.
9. Government of Netherlands has approached for appointment of an Honorary Consul in Calcutta.	Under active consideration.

1780. [*Transferred to 22nd March* 1993]

Memorandum of understanding between India and Bhutan

1781. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH :
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleaded to state :

(a) what was the outcome of the visit of King of Bhutan to India recently;

(b) whether any memorandum of understanding was signed between Bhutan and India;

(c) In what manner, the Government propose to meet the cost of the power project over Suokosh river in Bhutan ? What is the expected amount of power to be

generated in the proposed power project, and

(d) The total No. of hectares of land expected to be irrigated in West Bengal as a result of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) His Majesty, the King of Bhutan, paid a State visit to India from 4-7 January, 1993. The visit has further strengthened our friendly relations with Bhutan. During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding on the Sankosh Multipurpose Project was signed. The detailed project report for Sankosh Multipurpose Project would be completed by end 1995.

(c) The financing of the project would be decided by mutual agreement between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

The project is expected to generate about 1525 MW of power.

(d) The irrigable area falling in Bhutan and the Indian State of West Bengal and Assam would be known on the completion of the Detailed Project Report.

Prosilytism of Hindus in Bangladesh

1782. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the recent Human Rights report of the US State Department has recorded prosilytism of a large number of Hindus and Tribal people in Bangladesh;

(b) whether the said report has also confirmed an increase of custodial abuse and deaths in 1992 as compared to 1991; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to freedom of religion and equality of treatment for the Hindus and Tribals in Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a reference to the phenomenon of prosilytism of Bangladeshi citizens in the US State Department's Report on Human Rights, 1992. It has also stated that there were credible reports of custodial abuse and deaths in Bangladesh.

(c) As the Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate, it is the responsibility of the Government of Bangladesh to assure freedom of religion and equality of treatment for the Hindus and Tribals in Bangladesh. However, we have, from time to time, mentioned maltreatment of minorities to Bangladesh Government.

Pending Border issue with China

1783. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total Indian territory under occupation of China now;

(b) whether steps have been taken by Government to resolve the border issues pending with the Government of China; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to get back the Indian territory ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, in the so-called Sino-Pakistani "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan has illegaly ceded approximately 5120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) Government is continuing its efforts to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the India-China boundary question through peaceful negotiations. In the five meetings of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary-question held so far, both sides are seeking ways to narrow their differences on the boundary question and to establish measures to ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquility all along the Line of Actual Control. The sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group is expected to be held this year.

Vituperative attack by Pakistan P.M.

1784. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent vituperative attack by the Pakistan Prime Minister at the U.N. Human